Petition on the Composition of Society Committees

Bylaw III, Sec. 3, e, (3), (4), and (8)

Petition

We, the undersigned Councilors of the American Chemical Society, hereby petition to amend the SOCIETY Bylaws as follows (additions underlined; deletions struck through):

Bylaw III
Council
Sec. 3
Committees of the Council
. . .
e. Society Committees
. . .
(3) The Chair of each Society Committee shall be a voting Councilor and appointed jointly by the President and the Chair of the Board, with the advice of the Committee on Committees, for one calendar year, each individual being limited to three successive one-year terms as Chair of the same Committee. However, a Chair shall continue to serve until a successor has been appointed. (1/1/78)

(4) Each Society Committee annually shall elect one of its members who is a voting Councilor to serve as Vice-Chair. (1/1/82)

. . .
(8) Appointees shall be selected such that at the time of appointment the Chair and at least two-thirds (2/3) of each Society Committee a majority of the members are qualified voting Councilors. (1/1/78)

Explanation

Society Committees, which are the Committee on Budget and Finance (B&F), and the Committee on Education (SOCED), are composed of Councilors and non-Councilors. Committee appointments are made adhering to the requirement that two-thirds (2/3) of the committee members are qualified voting Councilors. The Society’s Bylaws also require the Chair and Vice-Chair of Society Committees to be Councilors.

B&F requires members with significant budget and financial experience and expertise. SOCED strives for a balance of members with expertise across many facets of chemical education. They include
chemical education researchers as well as active educators at four-year colleges and universities, graduate schools, two-year colleges, and high schools. Councilors who are educators at two-year colleges or high schools are few in number.

To comply with the Society’s Bylaws, it is not unusual for an active, contributing member of a Society Committee to be removed from the committee member roster as a result of a change in status from Councilor to non-Councilor. It is also not unusual for a non-Councilor to be removed from the committee member roster because of another committee member undergoing a change in status from Councilor to non-Councilor.

This petition changes the Councilor requirement of Society Committee members from at least two-thirds (2/3) to a majority in order to provide for greater flexibility in member appointments and continuity of committee membership.

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<th>Number of committee members</th>
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This petition also removes the Councilor requirement for the Chair and Vice-Chair of a Society Committee. Committee members with expertise and strong leadership abilities should not be disqualified to serve as Chair or Vice-Chair because of status as a non-Councilor.

Signed:
- Dr. Christopher J. Bannochie
- Dr. Iona Black
- Dr. Mitchell R.M. Bruce
- Dr. Dee Ann Casteel
- Dr. Bonnie A. Charpentier
- Dr. Deborah Cook
- Dr. Alan B. Cooper
- Dr. Milagros Delgado
- Dr. Donna G. Friedman
- Dr. Carmen Gauthier
- Ms. Kathleen Gibboney
- Dr. Joseph A. Heppert
- Dr. Wayne E. Jones, Jr.
- Ms. Diane Krone
- Ms. Bonnie Lawlor
- Dr. Carolyn Ribes
- Ms. Susan M. Shih

(This petition has been referred to the *Council Policy Committee, Committee on Committees, Society Committee on Budget and Finance, Society Committee on Education, and Committee on Constitution and Bylaws.)*

*Committee having primary substantive responsibility

**FINAL STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL IMPACT**

The Society Committee on Budget and Finance has examined this petition and concludes that it will have no impact on the finances of the Society ($0).
FINAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

The Committee on Constitution and Bylaws has reviewed the petition and finds it to be legal and consistent with other provisions of the Society’s documents. The Committee agrees with the original language in the petition when it was presented to Council for consideration.

A two-thirds (2/3) vote of Council is required for approval of amendments to the Bylaws. If approved by Council, the amendments will become effective upon confirmation by the Board of Directors.

Dr. V. Dean Adams
Chair